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Human Rights Council
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Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council

28/2. Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming its commitment to promoting international cooperation, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 1, paragraph 3, as well as relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, for enhancing genuine cooperation among Member States in the field of human rights,

Recalling the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on 8 September 2000 and the renewed commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by their target date of 2015, as set out in the outcome document adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling also all decisions and resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, the latest of which being Council resolution 25/3 of 27 March 2014 and Assembly resolution 69/179 of 18 December 2014,

Recalling further the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa from 31 August to 8 September 2001, and the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and their role in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

Recognizing also that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue in all relevant forums, including in the context of the universal periodic review, and be aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Stressing the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of all in every country, including in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing the need to continue to mutually enrich South-South cooperation, based on the diverse experiences of and good practices from South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and North-South cooperation, and to further explore complementarities and synergies between them with the aim of enhancing international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Determined to take new steps forward in the commitment of the international community with a view to achieving substantial progress in human rights endeavours by an increased and sustained effort of international cooperation and solidarity,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which the Assembly established the Human Rights Council, and reaffirming that the work of the Council shall be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation with a view to enhancing the promotion and protection of all human rights, civil political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development,

Reiterating the role played by the universal periodic review as an important mechanism in contributing to the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 6/17 of 28 September 2008, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a universal periodic review voluntary trust fund to facilitate the participation of developing countries, particularly least developing countries, in the universal periodic review mechanism, and to establish the voluntary fund for financial and technical assistance, to be administered jointly with the universal periodic review voluntary trust fund, in order to provide, in conjunction with multilateral funding mechanisms, a source of financial and technical assistance to help countries implement recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review in consultation with, and with the consent of, the country concerned,

Reaffirming that dialogue among and within religions, cultures and civilizations in the field of human rights could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation in this field,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the promotion and protection of cultural rights are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Emphasizing the need for further progress in the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation,

Underlining the fact that mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation, transparency and confidence-building are fundamental elements in all activities for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Stressing the need to explore ways and means for enhancing genuine cooperation and constructive dialogue among Member States in the field of human rights,

1. *Reaffirms* that it is one of the purposes of the United Nations and also the primary responsibility of States to promote, protect and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation;

2. *Recognizes* that, in addition to their separate responsibilities to their individual societies, States have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level;

3. *Reaffirms* the duty of States to cooperate with one another in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including with respect to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of religious intolerance;

4. *Underlines* the fact that States have pledged themselves to cooperate and act in collaboration with the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, for the achievement of universal respect for and observance of human rights;

5. *Reaffirms* that dialogue among and within cultures and civilizations facilitates the promotion of a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity, and welcomes in this regard the holding of conferences and meetings at the national, regional and international levels on dialogue among civilizations;

6. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and the promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

7. *Resolves* to promote respect for and preserve cultural diversity within and between communities and nations while respecting human rights law, including cultural rights, with a view to creating a harmonious multicultural world;

8. *Reaffirms* the importance of the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights and for the achievement of the objectives of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

9. *Considers* that international cooperation in the field of human rights, in conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter and international law, should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. *Emphasizes* the need to promote a cooperative and constructive approach to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as to further enhance the role of the Human Rights Council in promoting advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building to support efforts to ensure the equal realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, where appropriate;

11. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms should be guided by the principles of universality, non-selectivity, objectivity and transparency and the enhancement of international cooperation, in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of the universal periodic review as a mechanism based on cooperation and constructive dialogue with the objective of, inter alia, improving the situation of human rights on the ground and promoting the fulfilment of the human rights obligations and commitments undertaken by States;

13. *Also emphasizes* the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts and in raising the capacities of States in the field of human rights through, inter alia,

the enhancement of their cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including through the provision of technical assistance, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned;

14. *Takes note* of the consolidated annual written update on the operations of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session;[1]

15. *Also takes note* of the compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of the views of States and relevant stakeholders on the contribution of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance,[2] in particular with regard to its sustainability and accessibility, to the implementation of recommendations accepted by States as part of their universal periodic review that required financial support;

16. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to seek to enhance dialogue with representatives from non-traditional donor countries with a view to broaden the donor base and to replenish the resources available to both funds;

17. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to make clear the process by which States request assistance from both funds, and to process such requests in a timely and transparent manner that adequately responds to the requesting States;

18. *Urges* States to continue to support both funds;

19. *Calls upon* States, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations to continue to carry out a constructive and cooperative dialogue and consultations for the enhancement of understanding and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour;

20. *Calls upon* States to further advance initiatives aimed at enhancing international cooperation in the field of human rights on issues of common interest and concern, bearing in mind the need to promote a cooperative and constructive approach in this regard;

21. *Urges* States to take the measures necessary to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing the adverse impact of consecutive and compounded global crises, such as financial and economic crises, food crises, climate change and natural disasters, on the full enjoyment of human rights;

22. *Requests* all Member States and the United Nations system to foster complementarities among North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation aiming at the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

23. *Invites* States and relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights;

24. *Recalls* that, in its resolution 69/179, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the High Commissioner, to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways and means, as well as obstacles and challenges and proposals to overcome them, for the enhancement of

[1] A/HRC/24/56.
[2] A/HRC/19/50.

international cooperation and dialogue in the United Nations human rights machinery, including the Human Rights Council;

25. *Takes note* of the report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the ways and means to enhance international cooperation in the field of human rights;[3]

26. *Welcomes* the high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming held during twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council with the theme of "Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights", and requests the High Commissioner to prepare, in consultation with States, and taking into account the discussions conducted by the panel, a report on the ways and means, as well as obstacles and challenges and proposals to overcome them, for the enhancement of international cooperation in the United Nations human rights machinery, including the Council, and to submit it to the Council before its thirtieth session;

27. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the matter in 2016, in accordance with its annual programme of work.

55th meeting
26 March 2015

[Adopted without a vote.]

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[3] A/HRC/26/41.